

ALEX STEPHENS.

as regards that with Judge Cone.

During Mr. Stephens' Congressional service, and pending the campaign of 1848, he returned from Washington to Georgia. He was fresh from great debates on the acquisition of California and New Mexico as United States Territories, and for having taken, against the wishes of the majority of the Southern members, a most prominent part in opposition to such acquisition, he was met with much adverse criticism. Judge Cone, who was at the time a leading politician of Georgia, was particularly severe in his comments upon Mr. Stephens' action, and was reported as having publicly denounced him as a traitor to the South.

Hardly had Mr. Stephens reached his home when these and similar reports were conveyed to him. At first he did not credit them, but as one kind friend after another informed him that Cone had called him a traitor, and advised, in the true Southern spirit, that he owed it to himself to demand what is called "satisfaction," the fire of pugnacity in his nature, which were always smoldering; flared up, and he declared that if Judge Cone would admit having called him a traitor to the South he would "slap his face." Not long after this he met the Judge at a numerously attended Whig gathering, and going up to him, quietly said:

"Judge Cone, I have been told that you, for reasons of your own, have denounced me as a traitor to the South, and I take this opportunity of asking you if such reports are true?"

"No, sir," was Cone's reply, "they are not true."

"I am very glad to hear you say so," said Mr. Stephens, cordially, and in the same friendly tone continued: "Of course, I do not desire to be in any way offensive to you, Judge Cone, but in order that we may have no further misunderstanding, through the misrepresentation of others, I think it right to tell you that I have said I would slap your face if you admitted having used the language attributed to you."

Upon this the Judge again disengaged, having spoken disrespectfully of Mr. Stephens, and so for the time the affair ended. It was the subject of discussion all over the State, however, and the general verdict was that Judge Cone—a very powerful man, by the way—had shown the white feather to "Little Alex Stephens." In such a community no public man resting under such a charge could hope either for political preferment or popular respect. Cone, of course, knew this, and very much heated and annoyed by the comments which were being made upon him, wrote to Mr. Stephens demanding an immediate and public retraction of the threat. In reply, Mr. Stephens wrote that the threat of slapping the Judge's face had been made contingent upon the truth of reports regarding which he (Mr. Cone) had pronounced to be untrue, and that such being the case there was no cause for offence or anxiety feeling on either side. Unfortunately, this letter was never received by Judge Cone. Three or four days after it was written, however, he met Mr. Stephens on the plazas of a hotel in Atlanta, and, disregarding their gentlemanly greeting, said in a very ominous tone:

"Mr. Stephens, I demand that you make an immediate retraction of your threats regarding me."

Sick and weak though he was, Alexander H. Stephens could allow no time to pass before on the 12th, as described, Judge Cone, was very sick in bed and unable to sleep, yet the trial man would be spattered, with unceasing pestilence and without distinction, against me, sir. I have already sent to his office that affidavit. I now desire to dismiss it further."

"And to take this as your answer, asked Cone, finally.

"It is twenty minutes I have to say the same reply."

"Then I immediately wrote to the daily 'Advertiser' and 'Daily News' and said, 'In view of the fact that the whole country has been so grossly deceived by the foul malignant lies that have been uttered, let me assure you that you are the man to whom I will speak when I have time.'

"With such pain and pestilence, as I was then, was it easy to write? But I did it. And the whole country has been so grossly deceived by the foul malignant lies that have been uttered, let me assure you that you are the man to whom I will speak when I have time.'

"A few days later, when the trial date of his trial was set, he again, in the same manner, wrote to the same papers, and said, 'In view of the fact that the whole country has been so grossly deceived by the foul malignant lies that have been uttered, let me assure you that you are the man to whom I will speak when I have time.'

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the last fatal thrust, but still the poor pale face of the little hero was set and defiant—his black eyes still flashed undauntedly.

"Retract, or I'll cut your cursed throat," hissed Cone.

"Cut! I'll never retract!" gasped the almost lifeless Stephens.

Like a flash, the knife came down. With an almost superhuman effort the prostrate man caught it in his right hand. Clean through the muscles, tendons and bones of the hand it cut, then stuck fast and reached my vital part. With desperate strength Cone tried to wrench it free. With a grasp almost of death the horribly mangled and mutilated hand still held it fast. In the struggle Stephens was again dragged to his feet: the blood was rushing in streams from his many wounds; his hold upon the knife which sought his brave heart began to relax; he was dying. But, even when he believed the next moment would be his last, strong men came to his relief. The madman Cone was secured and held fast.

Then quickly the wounds which Mr. Stephens had received were examined. It was found that one had penetrated to within a sixteenth inch of the heart. An intercostal artery had been cut. The doctors declared that he would surely die. Happily the predictions were not verified. His life was saved by the unremitting care of a surgeon, his devoted friend, who, as good fortune would have it, happened to be in Atlanta at the time. When he recovered, with a magnanimity of which few men are capable even of understanding, he refused to prosecute Cone, and that person, instead of getting his deserts in the dark cell of a State prison, was fined \$1,000, and, with his "honor vindicated," was allowed to go free. To the day of his death Mr. Stephens spoke of him in terms of consideration and forgiveness. Not long ago referring to the terrible struggle I have attempted to describe, and showing me the great hole in his mangled hand, he said, with a quiet and faraway look in his deep, dark eyes, "Poor Cone! I'm sure he'd be sorry if he knew what trouble I have to write with these stiff fingers of mine."

Millions in Sight.

There's millions in it—millions of solid, solid gold and silver; not the tincture—so to speak—of the thrifty visionary, but the tangible fact that makes men opulent; that makes nations powerful, that moves all that is movable by human agencies in the universe. There's millions in it—in the vault that underlies the sub-treasury building. The doors are opened; the expectant visitor takes his hand from over his eyes; he peers in, enters, and Aladdin's cave is changed into the store room of a grist-mill. He sees nothing but a solid mass of little canvas sacks, piled from floor to ceiling, homely as a grocery overstocked with breadstuffs. This is the principal vault, and each of these little sacks contains \$1,000 silver dollars. There is no gold here. This vault is thirty-six feet long, seventeen feet wide and eight and a half high; yet it holds only 13,000,000 of silver dollars. The gold vaults are about as prosy, the money being piled in the same manner, each sack containing \$20,000. It is asked, Where does all this money come from? The answer is that the sub-treasury—this mean, little, inadequate building—is the reservoir for the entire revenue of the Government from the Pacific coast west of the Rocky mountains from British Columbia to Mexico.

The business of keeping your amount in round money to \$100,000.00, naturally it may be asked, can all this money be loaned or lent, or invested, yet the vault must still be spattered, with unceasing pestilence and without distinction, against me, sir. I have already sent to his office that affidavit. I now desire to dismiss it further."

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Southern Truck Farming.

Colonel E. B. Papy, in the address before the Middle Florida Vegetable Growers' convention last October, said that in Alachua county one gentleman planted last year two gardens. One was a one-mile crop, from which he received \$1500; the other was as follows: 12 acres in cabbages, 20 acres in tomatoes, 11 acres in Irish potatoes, 14 acres in beets and 2 acres in cucumbers. The cucumbers yielded nothing. From the balance of his crop he secured \$4700. Another, from less than an acre of strawberries, received \$700. Another, who, however, planted at Newbern, N. C., and who still retains his farm there, but will also plant largely in Florida this year, as well as engage in other businesses, received from his crop of vegetables last year \$30,000; and it is estimated after he has realized for his cotton all of the vegetable land was planted in cotton after the vegetables were gathered; he will have received for his farming operations last year between \$45,000 and \$50,000. Mr. Cesena, of Alachua county, said that he had been in the business of truck-gardening for ten or twelve years, and with the exception of two years has made money each year. He stated that he has received nearly \$8,000 from one acre of tomatoes. He also states that strawberries are an important factor in this business, and that they have paid as high as \$600 per acre. The best and most profitable vegetables to plant are tomatoes, cabbages, Irish potatoes, cucumbers and beans.

ARE YOU AWARE?

that a simple cough often terminates in Consumption? Why not be wise in time and use ALLEN'S LUNG BALM, which will stop the disease and prevent the fatal consequences? For sale by all Medicine Dealers.

Why is a railroad so patriotic? Because it is bound to the country with the strongest ties.

Can't Get It.

Diabetes, Bright's Disease, Kidney, Urinary or Liver Complaints cannot be contracted by you or your family if Hop Bitters are used, and if you already have these diseases Hop Bitters is the only medicine that will positively cure you. Don't forget this, and don't get some puffed-up stuff that will only harm you.

Girls are more courageous than men. They are ready to make a match with a fellow twice their size.

THAT HUSBAND OF MINE.

It is three times the man he was before he began using "Well's" Health Remedy. Dr. Strong's.

Heascs make better time in the spring, owing to the spryng condition of the track.

Ladies of all ages who suffer from loss of appetite from imperfect digestion, low spirits and nervous debility may find relief in the use of Dr. Strong's Health Remedy. It is a safe and effective remedy, recommended by the Rev. Mr. Lydia E. Pinkham's remedies for all complaints incident to the female constitution. We have not only a living faith in Mrs. Pinkham, but we are assured that her medicines are among those agreeable and efficacious.

The Chinese New Year began on Tuesday night and was celebrated in grand style in China in New York. One of the principal features of the occasion was the paying of debts and the returning of borrowed money. There seems no use of attempting to disguise the fact—the hostesses can not be taught to adopt the Christian customs of this country. —*Newark Herald.*

SHOOT ON CORN.

See our "GARDEN GUIDE," the Quick & Easy Guide to the Household and Garden.

MANY a gay-enlaid liver-pad hides a sad heart.

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